

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3. This sheet, which includes Fig. 3, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (1).

Remarks

The Drawings stand objected to because all rectangular boxes in Fig. 3 should be labeled.

Fig. 3 has been amended.

The Abstract of the disclosure stands objected to because it should be on a single page.

The Abstract of the disclosure has been amended.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Leussler (US6,650,118).

Claims 1-11 remain in the application unamended.

Drawings

As shown in the attached sheet, Fig. 3 has been amended to include labels in all relevant boxes. In light of this amendment, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Drawings.

Specification

As shown above, the Abstract of the disclosure has been amended to be on a single page. In light of this amendment, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Specification.

Claims

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Leussler (US 6,650,118).

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection under §102(a) is not proper. As shown on the front page of Leussler, Leussler has a filing date of July 12, 2002; a publication date of January 30, 2003; and a grant date of November 18, 2003. The present application, on the other hand, has a priority date of December 6, 2002. Accordingly, if at all, Leussler qualifies as prior art under § 102(e).

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under § 102(a).

Notwithstanding the above, Applicants respectfully submit that they are prepared to swear behind the Leussler reference. An affidavit to that effect will be provided as necessary.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 1-11 distinguish patentably and non-obviously over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. An early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

If any extension of time is required relative to this Response A, Applicants hereby petition for such extension. Authorization to charge deposit account 14-1270 for the fees associated therewith or otherwise necessary in connection with the related application is hereby provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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